



Human Services Committee Public Hearing

Testimony in favor of S.B. 284: "AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS"

Thursday March 10, 2022

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee.

My name is Holly Hackett, I am the Office Administrator at Keep the Promise Coalition (KTP) and a resident of East Haven. I am also an incorporating member of Medicare for All CT, a co-chair of Mothers and Others for Justice (MOFJ) HEALTH Committee (Helping Everyone Achieve Lifelong Trusted Healthcare), CARE (Community Alliance for Research and Engagement a partnership between Southern CT State University and Yale) as a graduate Community Research Fellow (CRF), and I am currently a member of the REACH Steering Committee (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health). As you can see all of the time and to the ability I am able to, I fight for health justice for all. ALL means ALL, health care is a HUMAN right!

I am in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults. As we saw with the pandemic WE as a society as a whole are only as healthy as our sickest neighbor. Medicare for All CT is also behind S.B. 284 with the caveat that we feel that this Act doesn't go far enough for the needs of ALL people and still leaves far too many people behind.

KTP maintains its focus, since 1999, on assuring that Connecticut provides the comprehensive range of housing, supports and services that persons of every age need to maintain good health, including mental health, and play an active role in the community. In order to accomplish this goal, advocacy is required on all levels of government, and KTP is committed to doing all that it can in assuring that the voices of people with lived experience are heard when decisions are being made.

We support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, we ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age, status or abilities.

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Holly Hackett

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